Assistance to families of Kargil martyrs

†4800. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the families of Kargil martyrs have received Government assistance; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance given?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Widows/next of kin of Kargil martyrs have been paid an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 10 lakhs each and have been sanctioned liberalised family pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased soldier. They have also been given Rs. 5 lakhs for housing and Rs. one lakh per child or Rs. two lakhs per family for education of children from the National Defence Fund.

The families of two martyrs have not been given the above benefit because of the cases filed in the Courts by their dependents.

Crash of fighter aircrafts

4801. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR :
SHRI LALIT SURI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots and other crew of the Indian Air Force planes who died due to plane crashes during the last three years, category-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number and category of the planes, which crashed during the above period;

(c) the reasons for crash in each case, as established after inquiry; and

(d) whether the next of kin of the deceased defence personnel have been paid according to the rules, if not, by when due payments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The details of each aircraft accident, alongwith causes and number of pilots killed during the last three years are enclosed as statement. (*See* below)

(d) Pension, *ex-gratia* and death-cum-retirement gratuity have been released in thirty cases. In the remaining cases partial payments have been made and action is being taken as per the existing procedure to ensure complete payments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.